

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL** \_\_\_\_\_

March 28, 2011

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** Arizona Charter School Incentive Program Continuation Awards, April 1-2011 –  
March 31, 2013

**SUBMITTED BY:** Karen Butterfield, Ed. D.

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** March 10, 2011

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In August of 2009, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) awarded one of five charter school grants, to the Arizona Department of Education to increase public school options in Arizona. The Agency created the Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program (AZCSIP) office to administer the grant.

"Charter schools have an important role to play in the overall strategy of promoting successful school reform and school turnaround models," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "(Arizona) has an opportunity to be selective and provide new high-quality public charter school choices for students and parents."

The purpose of the Charter School Grants Program is to increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings, improve student achievement to high academic standards in AZCSIP schools, and to improve high school student achievement and graduation rates in AZCSIP schools.

Arizona's initial award is for \$14,024,105 for the first two years (8/01/09-7/31/2011). The contract abstract submitted with this agenda item represent charter schools awarded AZCSIP funds by the State Board of Education in March 2010 for funding year 2010-11. Charter schools eligible for renewal of funds for 2011-13 are listed on the last page.

## **CONTRACT ABSTRACT**

Proposed contract between the State Board of Education, acting for and on behalf of the Department of Education and the following parties eligible for renewal of funds for 2011-12 and 2012-2013  
2013

### **Name of Contracting Parties:**

See attached list of awards

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program is to 1) increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings, 2) improve student achievement to high academic standards in schools, and 3) to improve high school student achievement and graduation rates.

ADE's application for \$53,737,071 to be distributed over 5 years was approved. Arizona's initial award is for \$14,024,105 for August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2011. We believe that as long as the Agency is accomplishing the grant's goals, it will be entitled the full amount for we applied.

The schools selected have a variety of strategies to improve pupil achievement. All of them have data driven strategies to continuously monitor student progress and in-house programs to align school staff with enhanced outcomes.

Much of the funding will go to support the material startup expenditures of opening a school. At the same time, considerable funding will go to building leadership and staff capacity to create school-wide cultures of learning.

### **Contract Amount:**

Not to exceed \$230,000 per school; \$6,066,000 total for 2011-2013

### **Source of Funds:**

Authorizing Legislation: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Public Law 107-110, Section 5201, Index No. 02451

**Responsible Unit at Department of Education:**

Academic Achievement Division

Division Associate Superintendent:  
Program Administrator:

Karen Butterfield, Director  
Mark Francis

**Dates of Contract:**

The agreements shall take effect when approved by the Board, and shall terminate on March 31, 2013.

**Explanation of Contract:**

The Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program start-up award is a competitive, discretionary grant. Successful replicated or new charter entities which describe in their application a compelling, school-wide vision for challenging standards, engaging instruction and rigorous assessment which will increase Arizona student achievement are encouraged to open new schools. Preference points are awarded to schools with 1) over 30% Free and Reduced Lunch student membership, 2) in urban or rural areas and 3) grades 9-12.

**Previous Contract History**

All charter schools listed herein were awarded funds in April 2010.

**Number Affected (Students, Teachers, and Public, as appropriate)**

17 charter schools are entering Year 2. Of the 17, 9 charter schools will continue in Year 3 (list attached)

**Method of Determining Contract Amount(s)***Selection Process:*

A competitive application was reviewed by a 5 person panel consisting of a federal program director, 2 charter school operators, an AZ State Board for Charter Schools representative and a university educator.

*Method of Determining Contract Amount:*

1. The Range of AZCSIP school populations in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year is 200 students to 600 students.
2. 200 students in Year Three was the criterion for maximum funding. All schools have met that criterion and are eligible for \$230,000 per year for the life of the grant.

**Evaluation Plan:**

Each awarded charter entity is required to produce an annual report which will align with the following:

1. The US ED Charter School Program SEA monitoring instrument
2. The Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program evaluation instrument which assesses the following:
  - a. Academic standards and continuous improvement
  - b. Governance
  - c. Ethical Leadership
  - d. Business and Financial Practices

A key strategy in the evaluation process is regular on-site visits by the AZCSIP staff to awarded schools to evaluate effectiveness and identify leading indicators (predictors) of success.

## **Charter School Entities for 2011-12 and 2012-13**

|     |   | Year 2    | Year 3    |
|-----|---|-----------|-----------|
| 1.  | Pima Prevention Partnership* (Includes additional \$86,000 for Year 1 based on increase in student cap) | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 2.  | South Valley Academy, Inc., 5-8   | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 3.  | Research Based Education Corporation, K-8   | \$230,000 |           |
| 4.  | Compass Points International, Inc. – Northpoint Academy, 9-12   | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 5.  | Presidio School, Inc., Artisan, K-8   | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 6.  | Presidio School, Inc., K-8  | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 7.  | Alhambra Education Partnership, Inc. – Alhambra College Prep, 9-12                                      | \$230,000 |           |
| 8.  | AZ Compass Schools, Inc., 9-12  | \$230,000 |           |
| 9.  | Sonoran Science Phoenix – Phoenix Metro Urban, K-12   | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 10. | Phoenix Collegiate Academy, Inc., 6-12  | \$230,000 |           |
| 11. | Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan, 6-8  | \$230,000 |           |
| 12. | BASIS School, Inc., 5-12  | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 13. | The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc., K-8  | \$230,000 |           |
| 14. | Great Hearts – Anthem Prep Academy, 5-12  | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 15. | Northview Public Charter High School, 9-12  | \$230,000 | \$230,000 |
| 16. | Teleos College Prep Academy, 3-12   | \$230,000 |           |
| 17. | Sonoran Science Broadway, K-9   | \$230,000 |           |

Sub Total: \$3,910,000      \$2,070,000  
\* \$86,000

Total: \$6,066,000